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COUNTRY: Syria
SUBJECT: Elections In Syria

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Pages: 1 25X1X6

DATE OF INFO: 30 Jul 54 and earlier

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1. The political situation in Syria is confused and fluid. The army has let it be known that it would prevent the return to power of the Sha'ab party or any other government favoring federation with Iraq. The Socialist leader, Akram Hourani, is flitting with the Army to make an alliance between the Socialists and the army which if successful might bring the Socialists into power after the election next month / August 1954 /, particularly if the election should be boycotted by the Sha'ab party. The position of the conservatives has not been helped by the proposal to bring back the former President, Shukri Kuwattli, now in exile in Egypt. Although highly respected as an individual Kuwattli represents to the army all those things against which the military revolted in recent years.
2. In the opinion of some observers, there is serious danger of another coup d'etat in Syria unless the major political parties can form a common front and win the confidence of the Army.

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